

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1) (currently amended) A method for portable computer data protection, comprising:

(a) ~~providing~~ communicating between a portable memory drive ~~having a static register with a value stored therein and a common interface for connection to, and communication with,~~ a host computer system ~~having storage therein via a common interface;~~ and

(b) managing operation of said portable memory drive through a data management program ~~which include~~ including the substeps of:

(b)(i) storing in said host computer system ~~said a value contained in said a static register of the portable memory drive, reflecting parameters defining one or more communication links established during initialization between the host computer system and the portable memory drive;~~ and

(b)(ii) upon a loss of communication between said portable memory drive and said computer system, and upon the a subsequent recommunication there between, copying said value from said host computer system to said static register, thereby resuming communication using the parameters previously stored in said static register.

- 2) (currently amended) The method for portable computer data protection of claim 1, wherein said portable memory drive further comprises an energy storage device contained within said portable memory ~~device~~ drive.
- 3) (original) The method for portable computer data protection of claim 1, wherein said static register values are stored in random access memory in said computer system.
- 4) (original) The method for portable computer data protection of claim 1, wherein said static register values are stored on a hard drive in said computer system.
- 5) (original) The method for computer data protection of claim 1, wherein said common interface comprises a universal serial bus.
- 6) (currently amended) The computer data protection method of claim 1, wherein said common interface is an IEEE-1394 bus.
- 7) (currently amended) A portable data storage system comprising:
- a portable mass storage device having a static register and a common interface for connection to a computer system, and a static register; said computer system providing normal operating power to the portable mass storage device via said common interface, said static register containing a value

reflecting parameters defining one or more communication links established during initialization between the host computer and the portable memory drive;

an energy storage device in electrical communication with said static register such that said static register will retain a last stored value throughout a transient disconnection of said common interface; and

a computer program stored on a storage media for execution by said computer system such that upon reconnection of said common interface after said transient disconnection, the said computer program automatically rebuilds the one or more communication links using said last stored value thereby allowing resumption of communication with said portable mass storage device ~~will resume normal operation without the intervention of a computer operator.~~

8) (original) The portable data storage system of claim 7, wherein upon detecting a transient disconnection, said computer program provides a warning notification wherein said computer operator is prompted to reconnect said mass storage device.

9) (original) The portable data storage system of claim 7, wherein said common interface comprises a universal serial bus.

10) (original) The portable data storage system of claim 7, wherein said common interface comprises an IEEE-1394 bus.

11) (currently amended) The portable data storage system of claim 7, wherein said computer system includes memory and a copy of data written to said portable mass storage device is also concurrently written to said memory on a continuous basis.

12) (original) The portable data storage system of claim 11, wherein said memory comprises random access memory.

13) (original) The portable data storage system of claim 11, wherein said memory comprises a hard disk.

14) (original) The portable data storage system of claim 11, wherein said computer program is configured to compare the data stored in said portable mass storage device with the data stored in said memory and to copy data from said memory to said mass storage device to correct any differences.

15) (currently amended) A portable data storage system comprising:

a computer system having memory;

a portable mass storage device having a common interface for connection to said computer system and having a static register; and

a computer program stored on a storage media for execution by said computer system such that data written to said portable mass storage device is

first written to said memory such that said computer program will direct said program to compare data stored in said memory to data stored in said portable mass storage device and correct the data stored in said portable mass storage device when a difference is found.

16) (original) The portable data storage system of claim 15, wherein said common interface comprises a universal serial bus.

17) (original) The portable data storage system of claim 15, wherein said common interface comprises an IEEE-1394 bus.

18) (currently amended) A connection error recovery system comprising:

an external computer device having a static register, said external computer device having common interface for connection to a computer system and a static register, said static register storing parameters or settings defining a communication link between the external computer device and the computer system;

an energy storage device in electrical communication with said static register such that said static register will retain a last stored value throughout a transient disconnection of said common interface; and

a computer program stored on a storage media for execution by said computer system such that upon reconnection of said common interface after said transient disconnection, the ~~said~~ external computer device will

immediately use the parameters of settings stored in said static register to re-establish the communication link and thereby resume normal operation without the intervention of a computer operator.

19) (new) A portable memory device comprising:

a common interface for connection to a host computer, said portable memory device having memory locations which will lose their data in the event of a transient power interruption; and

a computer program stored on computer readable medium, said computer program causing the host computer to locally store a state of said portable memory device and to re-load the state to said portable memory device after a transient power interruption in order to restore communication with the host computer.

20) (new) A portable data storage system comprising:

a host computer system having random access memory;

a portable mass storage device having a common interface for connection to said host computer system; and

a computer program stored on storage media for execution by said host computer system such that, on an ongoing basis, data written to said portable mass storage device is first written to said random access memory and used as a source file for transfer of said data to said portable memory.

21) (new) A portable memory device comprising:

a common interface for connection to a host computer, said portable memory device having memory locations which will lose their data in the event of a transient power interruption;

an input for receiving operating power from the host computer; and

a device driver program comprising computer-executable instructions stored on computer readable medium, said device driver program configured to be automatically loaded on the host computer when said portable memory device is connected to the host computer via said common interface, to cause the host computer to store locally settings of the common interface of said portable memory device, and to re-load the locally stored settings to the memory locations of said portable memory device after a transient power interruption or disconnection of the portable memory device from the host computer.

22) (new) The portable memory device of claim 21, further comprising non-volatile flash memory for persistent mass storage of user data, wherein said common interface comprises a USB port, and wherein said device driver program comprises a USB driver.

23) (new) The portable memory device of claim 22, wherein no random access memory is provided on the device for mass storage of user data.